

Fall 8-15-2009

## ENG 3099G-099: Versions of the Dao

John Martone  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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Professor John Martone  
[jpmartone@eiu.edu](mailto:jpmartone@eiu.edu)  
 English 3099G  
 Office: CH 3751  
 Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00

### *Versions of the Dao*

The *Daodejing* is one of the world's most translated books, embodying teachings about nature and human life that have been of perennial interest and which remain compelling today. This course looks at Laozi's classic in its original setting and explores its influence upon other cultures-- Vietnamese, Japanese, and American.

#### **Required Texts**

Abe, *Box Man*  
 Barnhill, *Basho's Journey*  
 Gao Xingjian, *Soul Mountain*  
 D.C. Lau, *Tao Te Ching*  
 Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*  
 Colin Rhodes, *Outsider Art*  
 Thong (Trans.), *The Tale of Kieu*  
 Burton Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*

Adobe PDF file of Resources for English 3099G

#### **Online Reading and Sources**

*Analects of Confucius* (Waley, Trans.) <<http://www.wright-house.com/religions/confucius/Analects.html>>  
 Robert Huey (Trans.) *Journal of My Father's Last Days: Issa's Chichi no shuen nikki*.  
 <<http://www.jstor.org/view/00270741/di995072/99p0069s/0>>  
*Zhongwen.com* <<http://www.zhongwen.com/>>

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **August**

24 -- Introductory; *Classic of Songs*  
 31 -- Confucius, The *Analects* and *Book of Rites*

#### **September**

7 -- D.C. Lau, *Tao Te Ching*  
 14 -- *Tao Te Ching*, cont'd. (Translation assignment due Sept 18)  
 21 -- The *Yijing* (Yijing casting assignment due Sept 25)  
 28 -- Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*

#### **October**

5 -- Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*; Rhodes, *Outsider Art* (Selections)  
 12 -- Buddhism  
 19 -- Du, *The Tale of Kieu*, cont'd. Hourly Exam.  
 29 -- Barnhill, *Basho's Journey*.

#### **November**

2 -- Issa, *Journal of My Father's Last Days*. Chiyo-ni (*Practicing Basho* due Nov. 6)  
 9 -- Kingston, *The Woman Warrior* or Gao, *Soul Mountain*  
 16 -- Kingston (or Gao), cont'd.  
 23 -- Thanksgiving Recess  
 30 -- Abe, *The Box Man*; Jones, *Shutting Themselves In*

December

7 -- Abe, *The Box Man*; conclusions

### **Requirements and Evaluation**

Please note: This is a **reading** intensive class that requires extended and careful attention to challenging texts. I assume you will do the reading and come to class prepared for discussion.

### **Written Assignments and Due Dates**

Laozi translation (*Resources* 12) – Sept 18

Casting the Yijing (*Resources* 15) – Sept 25

Hourly exam – Oct 19

Practicing Basho -- Nov 6

Kingston/ Gao discussion – by Nov 20

Final 8-10 page essay – due at final examination